

Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs



Vet News: Week of Dec. 12, 2013

What's New This Week:

1. News and Announcements
2. Resources FYI
3. Special Events
4. County News
5. Upcoming Events/Meetings

ADVA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wreaths Across America for NLR Cemetery

Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

National Wreaths Across America Day, is Saturday, Dec. 14, and the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at North Little Rock is planning a ceremony at 11 a.m. on that day.

For more information about this event, please contact Walter "Big Walt" Prouty, Big.Walt.PGR@gmail.com, 501-257-0040



'Korea Reborn' FREE to Korean Veterans, Families

The ADVA has **FREE** copies of the book "Korea Reborn: A Grateful Nation," which honors war Veterans for 60 years of growth. The hardcover book was published in cooperation with the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs for the commemoration of the Korean War by Remember My Service Productions. If you would like a copy, contact Kelly Ferguson at Kelly.ferguson@arkansas.gov or (501) 244-1119. Copies will be available for pick up ONLY. In rare cases, delivery can be arranged.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LRAFB December News

The MDG will be closed during the following times:

18 Dec-1200-1630 for training
25 Dec-For Christmas
26 Dec-AMC Family Day
1 Jan-For New Year's Day
20 Jan-MLK Holiday
22 Jan-1200-1630 for training

Exchange

Regency Cleaners is having a December Christmas savings promotion. Bring in any two items alike and get the third cleaned free! Promotion runs thru Dec. 24.

Honey Baked Ham concessionaire in the Exchange Mall will be open Friday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. to take orders. Customers can pick up orders on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Commissary

Christmas Week Hours

Sunday, Dec. 22, 1000-1800 hours
Monday, Dec. 23, 0900-1700 hours
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 0900-1600 hours
Wednesday, CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED
Thursday, Dec. 26 CLOSED
Friday, Dec. 27, 0630-1900 hours
Saturday, Dec. 28, 0900-1900 hours

New Year's Day

The commissary will be closed Jan. 1, 2014, for New Year's Day. We will re-open on Jan. 2, at 0630 hours for business.

Retirees Office

Come to building 1255 and take an ornament from the Christmas Tree to purchase the gift requested by a Veteran at North Little Rock VA Hospital. Wrap it and return it to the gift box by Dec. 13, 2013. If you have questions, call (501) 987-6095. Two boxes for Toys for Tots also are on site. Bring unwrapped toys and place in the boxes located in the front and back of building 1255.

TRICARE Customer Service is Available Online and On the Phone

TRICARE offers multiple, convenient online and telephone customer service options for beneficiaries who have questions about their health care benefit and, if necessary, help them reach out to the regional contractors for assistance.

Read more at:

http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/12_11_13_CustomerService.

New Rates for Compensation and Pension Benefits in 2014

WASHINGTON - Veterans, their families and survivors receiving disability compensation and pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a 1.5 percent cost-of-living increase in their monthly payments beginning Jan. 1, 2014. [Full Story](#)

USS Zumwalt Hits the Sea



The Navy just put its newest destroyer, the USS Zumwalt, into the sea. Constructed by General Dynamics with weapons systems and software from other companies, the Zumwalt "DDG-1000" Guided Missile Destroyer is like the iPhone 6 of naval ships.

Its "tumblehome" hull avoids enemy radar while composite armor absorbs it, advanced weaponry strikes from more than 100 miles offshore, Linux-based networking in the bridge allows for purchase and implementation of off-the-shelf software and an all-electric drive system.

At about 87 percent completion, the Zumwalt is not quite ready to start making the rest of the globe flinch yet. On the outside, the USS Zumwalt not only looks cool (rule #1), but it's a full 100 feet longer than existing classes of destroyer. The hull of the ship is made of a composite

material which effectively absorbs radar waves. Construction of the ship required General Dynamics to build a special \$40 million "Ultra Hall" to hold the pieces.

The Zumwalt's weaponry is tailored for land attack and close-to-coast dominance and will also have a sensor and weapons suite optimized for littoral warfare and for network-centric warfare. The ship also has space for two medium-lift helicopter systems. And finally, the new Long Range Attack Projectile (LRAP) — The DDG 1000 will be armed with tactical tomahawks, standard missile SM-3s, and the evolved SeaSparrow missile.

Get the full story [here](#).

**** *To add a resource, email details to kelly.ferguson@arkansas.gov* ****

RESOURCES FYI

Military OneSource

Confidential services, including non-medical counseling and specialty consultations, are available through Military OneSource. Eligible individuals may receive confidential services at no cost.

Operation Homefront

Operation Homefront assists military families during difficult financial times by providing food assistance, auto and home repair, vision care, travel and transportation, moving assistance, essential home items, and financial assistance.

ARVets

The mission of ARVets is to enhance the overall quality of life for military personnel, veterans and their families by improving access to resources and strengthening support systems through all phases of the military life cycle. ARVets will proactively offer more innovative ideas and methods to deliver services and focus on a grassroots case-management approach.

Annuity.org

Veterans and their families under the Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefit programs often do not know what options are available to them due to the complexity of annuities. Our site has information on the different types of annuities, the tax implications involved in owning one and how to handle a structured settlement.

Candlewood Suites NLR

Military rates, weekly rates, special events

SPECIAL EVENTS

Christmas Collections Needed

The Jacksonville Museum of Military History, along with Mt. Tabor Methodist Church in Cabot and Arkansas Flag and Banner in Little Rock is collecting for the LR/NLR VA Hospital and Clinics. Due

to the last notification, short shopping season and weather the deadline has been extended to include the month of January. Deadline is Saturday, Feb. 1st, 2014. For a complete list of needs and more information, log onto <http://www.jaxmilitarymuseum.org/veterans.html>.

COUNTY NEWS

Female VSO Sought in Benton County

Benton County will announce the vacancy for a Female Veteran Service officer online on Friday, Dec. 13. Information concerning the position will be posted on Benton Counties employment portal with an expected start date of Jan. 6, 2014. Find the posting at <http://www.bentoncountyar.gov/BCHome.aspx?page=/Agency/HumanResources/Jobs.aspx&info=Agency/info/HRInfo.html#BCHome.aspx?info=Agency/info/HRInfo.html&page=/Agency/HumanResources/Jobs.aspx>

**** *To add an event, email details to kelly.ferguson@arkansas.gov* ****

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Dec. 14

Wreaths Across America Day, 11 a.m., Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at North Little Rock; Contact (Big) Walt Pouty at (501) 257-0040 for more information.

Dec. 16

ALC-Arkansas Veterans Home Special Subcommittee; 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 149

Dec. 17

Special meeting of the Arkansas Veterans Commission; 10 a.m., State Capitol, Room 130.

April 5, 2014

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day will be celebrated at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History.

ADVA Vet News is a weekly email update providing information of interest to Service Officers and Veterans. Information has been provided from a variety of sources and does not necessarily constitute an opinion or position by ADVA.

A service of the [Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs](#) Public Information Department, 2200 Ft. Roots Dr. Bldg. 65, Rm. 119, N. Little Rock, AR 72114

This message was sent to members of the Arkansas Veterans' Commission, the Arkansas Veterans' Coalition, ADVA Service Officers, and County Veterans Services Officers mailing lists. Click [HERE](#) to be removed. Type "Remove Me" in the subject line.